

April 7, 1983

LB 356

really in effect a redraft of the bill and there is I believe a white copy of the bill in your bill books which contain the amendments, the committee amendments to the bill and they were drafted by myself. I also have amendments to the committee amendments that I will provide you shortly but initially I would like to review the committee amendments to LB 356 and outline the objectives of the committee amendments and of the bill itself because they really should be discussed in one motion. The primary purpose of LB 356 is to provide regulation of the uranium mining industry in the State of Nebraska by establishing underground injection controls in this state. As you know, currently there are companies in northwest Nebraska which are interested in the development of uranium mining. The State Department of Environmental Control has promulgated rules and regulations which regulate underground injection controls in the State of Nebraska and in fact a permit has. . . a request and application for permit has been filed by Wyoming Fuels to construct a pilot plant in western Nebraska to begin the development of uranium mining. The...one of the major purposes of LB 356 and the committee amendments which are contained in it are to insure that the State of Nebraska has the authority to promulgate the underground injection controls which are promulgated pursuant to the Safe Drinking Water Act and to achieve the delegation of authority necessary, under the Safe Drinking Water Act, we must make two changes in Nebraska State law. The first change is that we must eliminate a section of state law that applies to underground injection controls which requires that permits be automatically be approved at the end of a 30 day review period. Therefore the bill contains that provision. The original bill simply eliminated the current section of law which required for the automatic 30 day review period. There were objections to that from a number of groups including the Nebraska Grain and Feed Dealers because it affected some of the operations which they are involved in. It was not my intention to effect anything other than those individuals who come under the underground injection control regulations. The second requirement of the federal government in this entire area is to. . .

PRESIDENT: Senator Cullan.

SENATOR CULLAN: Yes.

PRESIDENT: May I interrupt? Senator Haberman came back and he wants to take up the committee amendments.